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**USE OF NITRITE SALTS FOR THE TREATMENT
OF CARDIOVASCULAR CONDITIONS**

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ABSTRACT

It has been surprisingly discovered that administration of pharmaceutically-acceptable salts of nitrite is useful in the regulation of the cardiovascular system. It has also been surprisingly discovered that nitrite is reduced to nitric oxide *in vivo*, and that the nitric oxide produced thereby is an effective vasodilator. These effects surprisingly occur at nitrite doses that do not produce clinically significant methemoglobinemia. These discoveries now enable methods to prevent and treat conditions associated with the cardiovascular system, for example, high blood pressure, pulmonary hypertension, cerebral vasospasm and tissue ischemia-reperfusion injury. These discoveries also provide methods to increase blood flow to tissues, for example, to tissues in regions of low oxygen tension.

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